

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 IO-14 OIC-04 SS-20

NSC-10 DRC-01 /109 W

----- 026482

P R 191556Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4945

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, UK

SUBJ: CIVAIR - CHARTERS

REF: STATE 205233

1. ROGERS (DTI) CALLED EMBOFF IN TO EXPRESS HIS GROWING CONCERN THAT VERBAL FENCING GOING ON BETWEEN US AND ECAC OFFICIALS RE AGENDA OF PROPOSED US/CANADA/ECAC TALKS THREATENS CONVENING OF TRIPARTITE TALKS WHICH ROGERS REGARDS AS VITALLY IMPORTANT FOR NEXT SEASON'S CHARTER REGIME AS WELL AS FOR LONGER TERM PROGRESS ON INTERNATIONAL CHARTER ARRANGEMENTS. ROGERS IS OF OPINION THAT EVEN IF US DOES NOT ATTEND NOVEMBER MEETING, ECAC/CANADIAN TALKS WILL PROCEED WITH STRONG LIKELIHOOD OF OVERALL AGREEMENT SINCE TWO SIDES ALREADY VERY CLOSE TO BASIC UNDERSTANDING. ECAC/CANADIAN AGREEMENT WHICH LEAVES OUT THE US WOULD NOT, IN ROGERS' VIEW, BE VERY SATISFACTORY TO ANY OF THE PARTIES LEADING, AS IT POSSIBLY WOULD TO SOME FURTHER POLARIZATION OF VIEWS AMONG THE PARTIES. ROGERS BELIEVES US PRESENCE IN TALKS MIGHT HELP AVOID THIS. IN ROGERS' VIEW, ECAC

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RESOLUTION NO. 8, WHICH APPEARS TO BE POINT OF

CONTROVERSY BETWEEN ECAC AND US, IS ACQUIRING A SYMBOLIC SIGNIFICANCE QUITE OUT OF PROPORTION TO ITS TRUE IMPORTANCE. EVEN IF RESOLUTION 8 WERE ELIMINATED, ECAC COUNTRIES ARE NOT YET READY TO NEGOTIATE LONG-TERM BILATERAL CHARTER AGREEMENTS WITH US AND, ROGERS SAID, HE QUESTIONS WHETHER US IN A POSITION AT THIS TIME TO COMMIT ITSELF TO LONG-TERM CHARTER AGREEMENTS WITH EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. ON OTHER HAND, CONTINUED EXISTENCE RESOLUTION 8 NOT A BARRIER TO BILATERAL TALKS TO WORK OUT DETAILS OF SHORTER TERM BILATERAL AGREEMENTS TO COVER NEXT YEAR'S CHARTER PROGRAMS.

2. BEFORE NEXT YEAR'S CHARTER ARRANGEMENTS ARE WORKED OUT AND IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE SOME FURTHER PROGRESS ON LONGER TERM ARRANGEMENTS, GENERAL DISCUSSIONS ON TRIPARTITE BASIS, ROGERS BELIEVES, WOULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL. FOR ONE THING, EUROPEANS ARE VERY ANXIOUS TO LEARN US INTENTIONS REGARDING CHARTER SERVICES. HE SAID ALTHOUGH US HAD ACCEPTED OTTAWA DECLARATION ADOPTING ADVANCE BOOKING CONCEPT, TGC RULES AS PROMULGATED HAD NOT WORKED SUFFICIENTLY WELL TO PERMIT ELIMINATION OF AFFINITY CHARTERS WITHOUT SERIOUS DISLOCATIONS. BECAUSE OF THIS US HAD ASKED, AND EUROPEANS PREPARED TO ACCEDE TO REQUEST, FOR CONTINUATION OF US-ORIGINATING AFFINITIES NEXT YEAR. WITH NO MODIFICATIONS IN TGC RULES BEING PROCESSED TO MAKE TGCS MORE MARKETABLE, EUROPEANS QUESTION WHETHER US WILL BE ABLE GIVE UP AFFINITIES BY NOVEMBER 1974. IF NOT, DOUBT CONCERNING US WILLINGNESS TO EMBRACE PRINCIPLES OF OTTAWA DECLARATION MAY BE JUSTIFIED, ROGERS STATED.

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3. ANOTHER SUBJECT THAT NEEDS TO BE DISCUSSED IN  
TRIPARTITE FRAMEWORK IS CHARTER PRICE MINIMUMS FOR NEXT  
SEASON. ACCORDING TO ROGERS, SOME BASIC UNDERSTANDINGS  
SHOULD BE REACHED TO ASSURE THAT CHARTER PRICES ARE  
PROPERLY ALIGNED.

4. ROGERS SAID ECAC REPLY TO MESSAGE REPORTED REFTTEL  
WILL BE SENT VERY SOON. ALTHOUGH HE DOES NOT CONTROL  
THE DRAFTING OF THE REPLY, HE HAS URGED THAT IT BE AS  
FORTHCOMING AND CONCILIATORY AS POSSIBLE  
AND HE HOPES IT WILL BE RECEIVED AND INTERPRETED IN  
THAT LIGHT. IT WILL PROBABLY PROPOSE TWO MEETINGS  
DURING THE SAME NOVEMBER 6-8 TIME FRAME. FIRST MEETING  
WOULD BE AT POLICY LEVEL FOR REVIEW AND DISCUSSION  
GENERAL CHARTER SITUATION. IN SUCH A CONTEXT, ROGERS  
SAID, RESOLUTION 8 AS WELL AS OTHER SUBJECTS COULD BE  
DISCUSSED. FOLLOWING POLICY TALKS, A MEETING AT  
TECHNICAL LEVEL WOULD BE CONVENED. ROGERS SAID HE  
HOPED THIS APPROACH WOULD MEET US NEEDS AND THAT  
TRIPARTITE TALKS COULD TAKE PLACE. COLEGATE AND  
ROGERS WOULD REPRESENT UK AT POLICY MEETING BUT NEITHER  
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WOULD ATTEND THE TECHNICAL LEVEL TALKS.

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